

**Room W135, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex**

Rep. Bradley G. Last, Co-Chair

Rep. Gregory H. Hughes

J. Daniel Schoenfeld, Legislative Fiscal Analyst

Ray Timothy, Associate Superintendent, USOE

Rep. Barrus, Revolving Loan Fund for Certain Energy Efficiency

Rep. Bigelow, Charter Schools

## Sen. Hillyard, All Day Kindergarten and Computers in Schools

Kris Fauber, Policy Specialist, USLC

Sharon Lay, Pre-K Specialist, USOE

Kendra Hall, Assistant Professor, Brigham Young University

Dr. Gary Bingham, Assistant Professor, Brigham Young University

Byron Korth, Assistant Professor, Brigham Young University

Kathy Webb, Education Technology Specialist, USOE

Sen. Bell, Elementary School Math Initiative

Gregg Roberts, World Languages, USOE

Rep. Morgan, H.B. 149

Karen Compton, Executive Director for Voices for Utah Children

Mike Zody, Attorney in Salt Lake City

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the Subcommittee minutes.

Co-Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

1. **Welcome** - Co-Chair Stephenson welcome all those present to the meeting.
2. **Approval of Minutes** - There were no minutes to approve.
3. **Requests for Appropriations and Fiscal Impact Bills** - Co-Chair Stephenson introduced ProExcel by stating that this is the proposal that was contained in the Omnibus School Reform Bill which was sponsored by Rep. Urquhart. This bill asked for the State Office of Education and State School Board to return with a proposal for differential pay and merit pay. Through Rep. Menlove's leadership, the proposal is now before the Subcommittee.

Rep. Menlove introduced Ray Timothy, Associate Superintendent, USOE. Superintendent Timothy stated that the State Board of Education has been concerned with teacher shortages because of the critical need for teachers in the state. The State Board asked that an Educator Task Force be established to adopt a plan to make sure that the state could attract and retain quality teachers. A pamphlet given to the Subcommittee identifies three major areas that are addressed:

- Educational Leadership
- Teacher Retention
- Professional Compensation

Superintendent Timothy explained that a portion of the Professional Excellence Plan is to provide a leadership consortium, re-evaluate the Administrative Preparation Programs, and do those things that will help ensure that there are quality leaders in the schools. The Teacher Retention area is focused mainly on providing the support that teachers need in entry-level years. Part two of the plan is for a quality mentoring program. The third part of the plan is professional compensation. Superintendent Timothy stated that there is a need for a substantial across-the-board salary increase to make Utah educator salaries attractive to and competitive with surrounding states and other comparative professions. Student performance is also another part of this bill. Superintendent Timothy stated that the teacher's role should be accurately measured in observing student performance. This section of the bill will be completed during the interim and presented during the next Legislative session.

A handout given to the Subcommittee entitled, "ProExcel Market Incentives," details the critical shortage areas in the state. The market incentive is for each teacher in the critical shortage areas to receive enhanced compensation in the form of a salary bonus or stipend. The market incentive request for this section of the handout is \$21,150,000. The second market incentive area is the hard-to-staff highly impacted schools. The staff members in these schools who are willing to work in those more challenging assignments would receive an additional stipend amount. This part of the request is for \$16,917,000. There are also shortages in local needs. This incentive request is for \$4,300,000. The total request for marketing incentives is \$42,367,000.

Rep. Barrus spoke on the Revolving Loan Fund for Certain Energy Efficiencies that will benefit public schools. Rep. Barrus stated that the essence of this bill is to provide a one-time \$5 million appropriation out of the General Fund that would be used to create an Energy Loan Fund that could be used to upgrade the mechanical system, a lighting system, or any other type of system within a school building that would improve energy efficiency. It could also be used in the construction of a new building where the building is being designed to meet the required energy efficiency code by utilizing energy efficiency equipment. The requirements of the bill are that the project will need to have a payback period no less than two years and no more than 12 years. The bill will be administered through the Utah Energy Program, which is housed in the Utah Geological Survey. The Board of the Utah Geological Survey will make final decisions on where the projects will be used.

Rep. Bigelow spoke on Charter Schools and stated that a process is being conducted to find some solutions to charter schools and the way they are funded. A process has been found that may work for next year. Rep. Bigelow asked that the Subcommittee look at charter schools and based upon what is agreed upon, consider that there will be some startup funds, some administrative local replacement funds, and funds for the WPU for any schools that might be approved and funded this year. Rep. Bigelow asked that the Subcommittee consider giving this issue some priority pending resolution and then consider some funding for charter schools. Rep. Bigelow further explained he is preparing a charter school bill that will set in place some processes for funding charter schools. The bill sets a long lead time so that the Legislature can fund it. Even if the bill is passed, its impact for funding charter schools will not take affect until next Legislative session. Regardless on what happens with this bill, the funding will have no impact this year; therefore, funding for charter schools this year will be on the basis of allocating funds during this Legislative session. Co-Chair Stephenson commented that this Subcommittee may want to set a target on the number of new charter schools that are funded for the coming cycle.

Sen. Hillyard addressed the Subcommittee concerning All Day Kindergarten. Kris Fauber, Policy Specialist, USLC, stated that the appropriation would reach approximately 400 classrooms in the state and reach approximately 10,000 students. There would be one full-day kindergarten in every district and in every Title I School. This program is a voluntary program. There would be approximately 5 1/2 hours of instruction. The program is targeted at helping those students who are functioning below grade level and help bring them up to levels that will assist them to be successful moving into first grade. The following individuals spoke in support of All Day Kindergarten:

Sharon Lay, Pre-K Specialist, USOE  
Kendra Hall, Assistant Professor, Brigham Young University  
Dr. Gary Bingham, Assistant Professor, Brigham Young University  
Byron Korth, Assistant Professor, Brigham Young University

Co-Chair Stephenson gave some background information on the Pre-Kindergarten Initiative. He stated that there were several state Legislative and education teams that met this summer in Montana to discuss Pre-K Programs. Most of the states have intact Pre-K Programs. It was decided that there should be respect given for parents' choices to ensure that the experiences in either neighborhood play groups at home or in daycare preschools are the kinds of experiences that would prepare their children for kindergarten. Sharon Lay, Pre-K Specialist, USOE, explained that the Pre-Kindergarten Initiative is to provide approximately \$7.9 million to be distributed to all districts to hire one Pre-K Educator for every 400 four-year old students. This bill is for all four-year olds, and the Pre-K Educator would work with parents in the school districts and would also work with current existing program providers. The bill will provide parent-education programs within the schools to help parents assist their children in preparing for Kindergarten. Guidelines would be provided for existing programs that work with four-year old children and to parents to ensure that they know what these children need to know before entering kindergarten.

Sen. Hillyard also spoke on Computers in Classrooms. He asked for a one-time, nonlapsing allocation over a period of three years of \$50 million to place computers in classrooms to help students become computer literate.

Co-Chair Stephenson at this point in the meeting asked for those speaking on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology Plans to come to the table so that the request made by Sen Hillyard could be tied in with this request. Kathy Webb, Education Technology Specialist, USOE, explained a handout given to the Subcommittee entitled, "21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching and Learning - Sample Scenarios." This handout details the cost of implementing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom using various scenarios. The handout also gives information on costs and technical support.

Co-Chair Stephenson stated that there should be some sort of ongoing funding mechanism to support the replacement of hardware, the upgrade of software, and continued training of teachers in using this 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology.

Sen. Bell spoke on the 4-6 Elementary School Math Initiative. Sen. Bell stated that math readiness starts in elementary school. The following is a sample budget for a Professional Development Plan Statewide:

- \$9 million for the cost of the professional development
- \$2 million for mathematics tutorial software programs
- \$1 million for classroom assessment materials
- \$5.3 million for intervention programs for students
- \$0.7 million for evaluation and administration of districts' professional development programs.

The total cost is \$18 million. Details of the above information are contained in a handout entitled, "Sen. Bell Elementary Mathematics Initiative, Statewide Implementation Budget." Ray Timothy, Assistant Superintendent, USOE, also spoke in support of this initiative.

Co-Chair Stephenson spoke in behalf of Sen. Dayton concerning State Government Law Revisions. He explained that this is a proposal to save about \$60,000 annually by withdrawing Utah's participation in the Education Commission of the States. This will be decided in the regular legislative process.

Co-Chair Stephenson addressed the Subcommittee concerning Education Reform. The bill is not yet drafted but will include the technology proposal, the language program, and some charter school legislation that may not be included in Rep. Bigelow's bill.

Gregg Roberts, World Languages, USOE, spoke in support of Critical Languages Incentives in Districts. He stated that the proposal is for a Critical Language Initiative where schools would implement a critical needs language program. This would be a six-year program. Incentives would also be given to teachers who would be willing to teach these languages. The total funding amount is \$230,000.

Co-Chair Last addressed the Subcommittee on the School Building Program. He referred to the Budget Brief - School Building Program. Three programs comprise the School Building Program. They are: the Capital Outlay Foundation Program, the Enrollment Growth Program, and the School Building Revolving Account. These programs assist qualifying school districts in providing school facilities and paying debt service on capital facilities. The money for the school buildings in the districts comes through the

local property tax. There is a difference in a district's ability to raise money through this tax. The Capital Outlay Formula was created many years ago in an effort to try and help those districts that have low assessed valuation per student with their building needs. The Enrollment Growth Formula is directly related to the number of new students in a district. If there is growth in a district during the past three years, the district would qualify for money under the Enrollment Growth Formula. Co-Chair Last further remarked that the Subcommittee may wish to consider the following as it develops FY 2008 budget priorities for Public Education:

1. Include a \$10 million one-time appropriation to support the School Building Program - Enrollment Growth Program
2. Evaluate the ongoing funding levels for the Capital Outlay Foundation Program and the enrollment Growth Program, reallocate ongoing base funding as needed, and prioritize any budget increases with the other FY 2008 items before the Subcommittee.

Rep. Morgan presented H.B. 149 which provides a cap on class sizes in kindergarten through the third grade. The cap is 20 students unless there is a school that has only one or two classes per grade. The cap for those schools is 22 students. The amount to lower class sizes to 20 would be \$45 million.

4. **Public Comment** - Karen Compton, Executive Director for Voices for Utah Children, addressed the Subcommittee concerning Extended Day Kindergarten. Ms. Compton referred to graphs that showed reading and math skill gains in proficiency with an extended day kindergarten.

Mike Zody, attorney in Salt Lake City, spoke in behalf of the Optional Extended Day Kindergarten appropriation. He stated that he also belongs to a Young Leaders' Group that have prioritized Optional Extended Day Kindergarten for at-risk students as a top legislative priority. Mr. Zody stated that this program has proven to be an effective means to improve the educational foundation for these children.

5. **Other Budget Related Issues** - Rep. Morgan asked for a \$30,000 one-time appropriation for Civic Education.

**MOTION:** Rep. Morgan moved to adjourn.

Co-Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Minutes were reported by Cherie Schmidt, Secretary

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Sen. Howard Stephenson, Committee Co-Chair

Rep. Bradley G. Last, Committee Co-Chair